



**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

**Act of Hope**

O my God, relying  
 on your almighty power and  
 infinite mercy and promises,  
 I hope to obtain pardon of my sins,  
 the help of your grace,  
 and life everlasting,  
 through the merits of Jesus Christ,  
 my Lord and Redeemer.

***St. Regina's Church Staff***

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

**Secretary:** Patricia Humble

**Dre:** Christina Hammond

**Facilities Manager:** Jim Molitor

**Web Page:** [saintreginacatholicchurch.org](http://saintreginacatholicchurch.org)

**Remember In Prayer**

Fr Robert Ponticello , Martha Jo ,  
 Kaylee Bowling , Joy Williams ,  
 Krystal Wadley James Ferebee ,  
 Michaelle Box

**July 16, 2023  
 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE SEED**

Here in the middle of summer, many people grow vegetable and flower gardens, or appreciate the work of others by buying produce from roadside stands and farmer's markets. All our readings today embrace one of God's smallest but most common miracles as a metaphor: the seed and its cycle, and all that it stands for. Isaiah reminds us that just as God waters the earth and cares for it so that seeds may grow, so the Word of God will come and not return to God until it has borne fruit. Psalm 65 describes the cycle of growth and personifies fields that "shout for joy." Romans has "creation groaning in labor pains" as it waits for its seed to come to fruition, redemption of the body. Similarly, Jesus teaches the crowds by using the parable of the sower and the seed.

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

The Second Vatican Council—By Whose Authority?

There have been twenty-one ecumenical (or "universal") councils in the history of the Catholic Church. The canons, constitutions, and decrees that they produce are to be recognized by all members of the Church. All the documents of the Second Vatican Council were passed by the Fathers of the Council and promulgated in the Pope's name. Thus they carry the authority of the Pope himself. Four of the Vatican II documents are "constitutions." They bear the highest degree of papal authority; this kind of document can define dogmas, create or change Church law, or establish Church structures. Nine of the conciliar documents are "decrees." They are authoritative pronouncements on specific areas of Church life, and derive their authority from the four constitutions. Three of the Council's documents are classified as "declarations." They can be seen as position statements on certain topics, urging the clergy and the faithful to action in those areas.

The Second Vatican Council has been called a "pastoral" council, in part to distinguish it from other councils whose work has been seen by some to be more theological or juridical. This does not in any way diminish the authority or theological weight of Vatican II's pronouncements, which are equal to those of any other ecumenical council in the history of the Church.

**LISTEN**

Listen and attend with the ear of your heart.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — My word will achieve the end for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:10-11).

**Psalm** — Much fruit is produced by the seed that falls on fertile soil (Psalm 65).

**Second Reading** — We, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves awaiting the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:18-23).

**Gospel** — Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit (Matthew 13:1-23 [1-9]).

Monday:	Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1
Tuesday:	Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27; Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8
Saturday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Sunday:	Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16;

**TOWARD HEAVEN**

Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things, through the mercy of God, will make a person go to heaven.

Vacation bible school starts tomorrow  
 From 4 until 6 PM

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Tuesday: St. Camillus de Lellis  
 Thursday: St. Apollinaris  
 Friday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi  
 Saturday: St. Mary Magdalene

**JULY 2ND**

**LECTOR MARY**

**SERVERS LESLIE & MAX**

**COUNTERS MARY C. & ANN F.**

**JULY 9TH**

**LECTOR ANN F**

**SERVERS CARLOS & MARINA**

**COUNTERS TOM & BEVERLY**

**JULY 16TH**

**LECTOR BEVERLY**

**SERVERS JESUS & MARINA**

**COUNTERS MARY C, & ANN F.**

**JULY 23RD**

**LECTOR PEGGY**

**SERVERS BRYAN & JESUS**

**COUNTERS TOM & BEVERLY**

**JULY 30TH**

**LECTOR JEFF**

**SERVERS CARLOS & MARINA**

**COUNTER MARY & ANN F.**

**July 16th 2023**  
**Sunday collection**  
**\$1495.00**